

# Ken Uston's PROFESSIONAL BLACKJACK™

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**GROWN-UP GAMEWARE™**

# *Intelligent Statements*

## PLAY THE SYSTEM THAT MADE KEN USTON THE WORLD'S WINNINGEST BLACKJACK PLAYER

Among all the casino games, blackjack alone gives an advantage to the skilled player. The player who has taken the most advantage of his skills is Ken Uston, a Harvard MBA who left a high post in business to achieve fame and fortune as the world's top professional blackjack player.

**Ken Uston's Professional Blackjack** delivers the benefits of Ken Uston's skills and experience in the most complete and authoritative blackjack game and teaching system ever developed for the home computer.

### THE ULTIMATE GAME

**Ken Uston's Professional Blackjack** accurately simulates the house rules and game variations at over seventy major casinos in Nevada and Atlantic City. Cards are dealt and bets are settled in standard casino fashion. All the main playing features of the table and the cards are accurately displayed in both color and monochrome\*. Even the discard stack is proportionately scaled\*, which is crucial to advanced betting strategies. And all the action is accompanied by appropriate sound effects\*. So you can use the same strategies playing the computer as you would playing at real casinos.

The range of playing options is nearly infinite. Here are just a few of your choices with **Ken Uston's Professional Blackjack**:

- Play alone—just you and the dealer.
- Play with family and friends—up to 7 at the "table."
- Let the computer play for any of the "players."
- Assign names, wallet sizes, betting units and playing strategies to all your opponents.
- Vary the dealing speed.
- Create your own casino, with its own set of rules.

**Ken Uston's Professional Blackjack** is the most enjoyable and challenging blackjack game you can buy, promising countless hours of enjoyment for years to come.

### THE WINNINGEST SYSTEM

**Ken Uston's Professional Blackjack** is more than the best blackjack game around; it's the best way to develop the skills you need to win, both at home and at the casino.

With **Ken Uston's Professional Blackjack**, you'll learn all of Ken Uston's computer-optimized, card-counting strategies, from basic to the Uston Advanced Point Count. Using menu-driven interactive practice drills, you'll progress smoothly through each skill level. Assistance is available from on-screen prompts, running statistical evaluations and sound effects\*. Even when you play just for fun, you can allow the computer to reveal accurate card counts, discard totals and statistical data—instantaneous feedback that confirms hunches and improves skills.

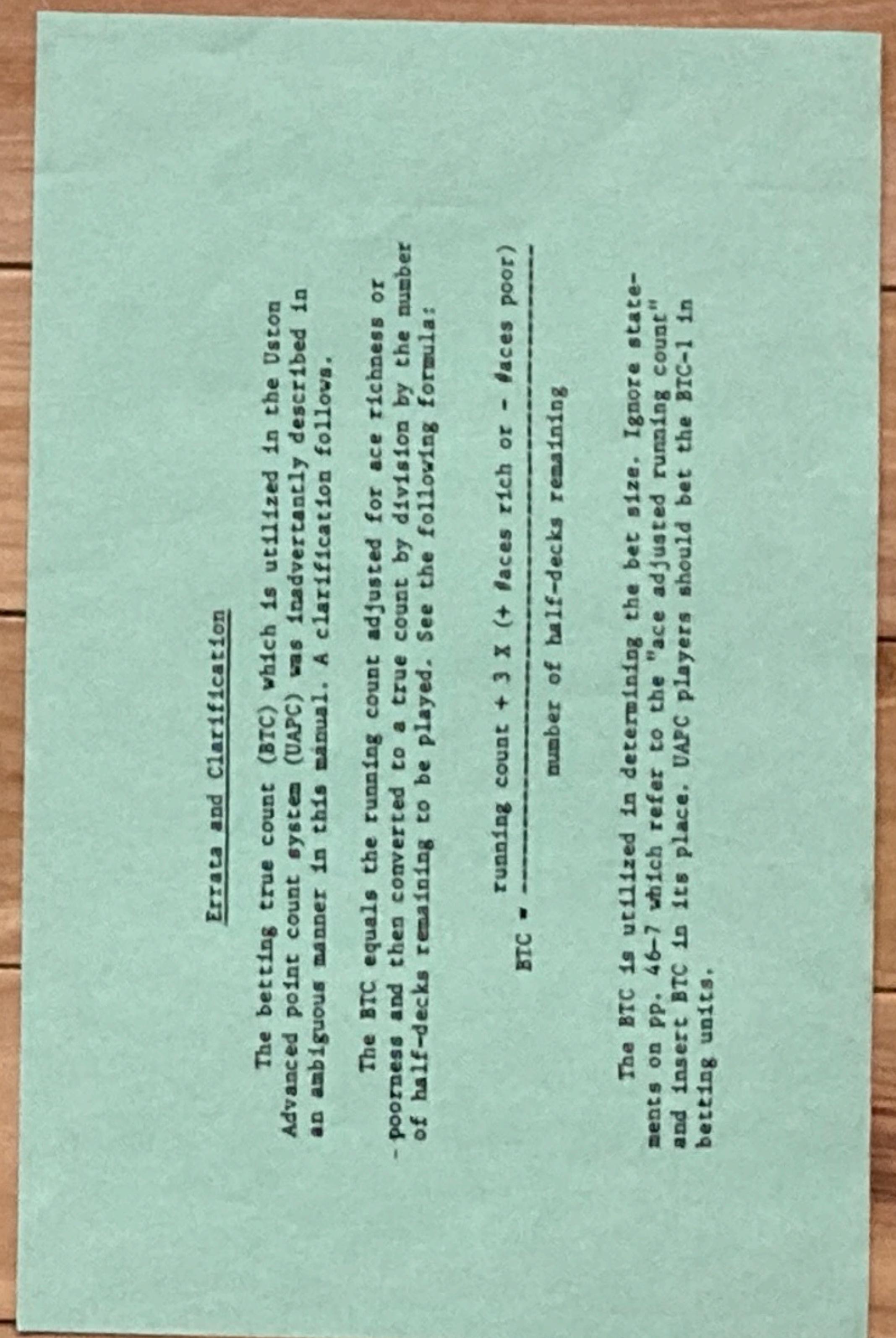
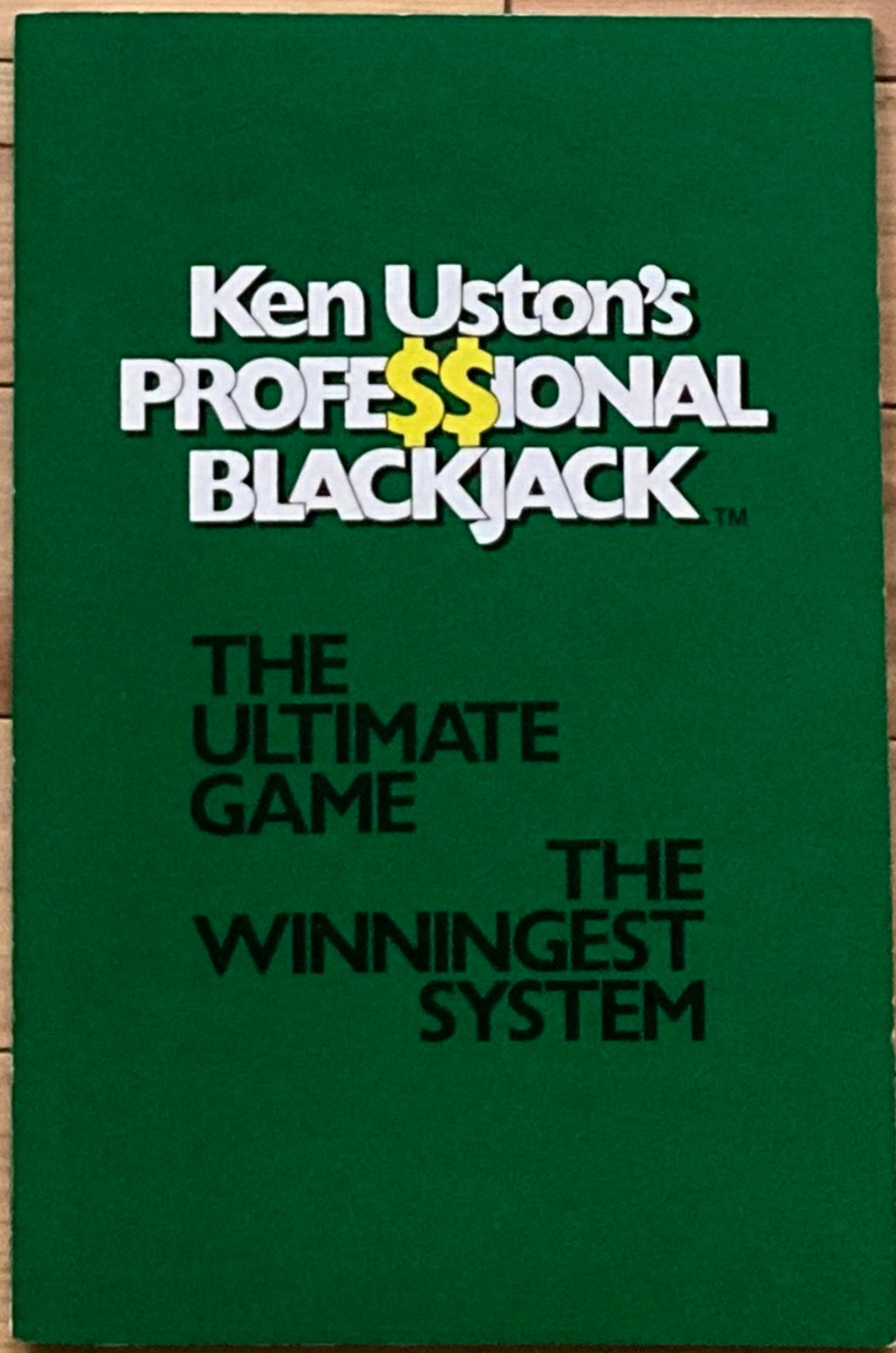
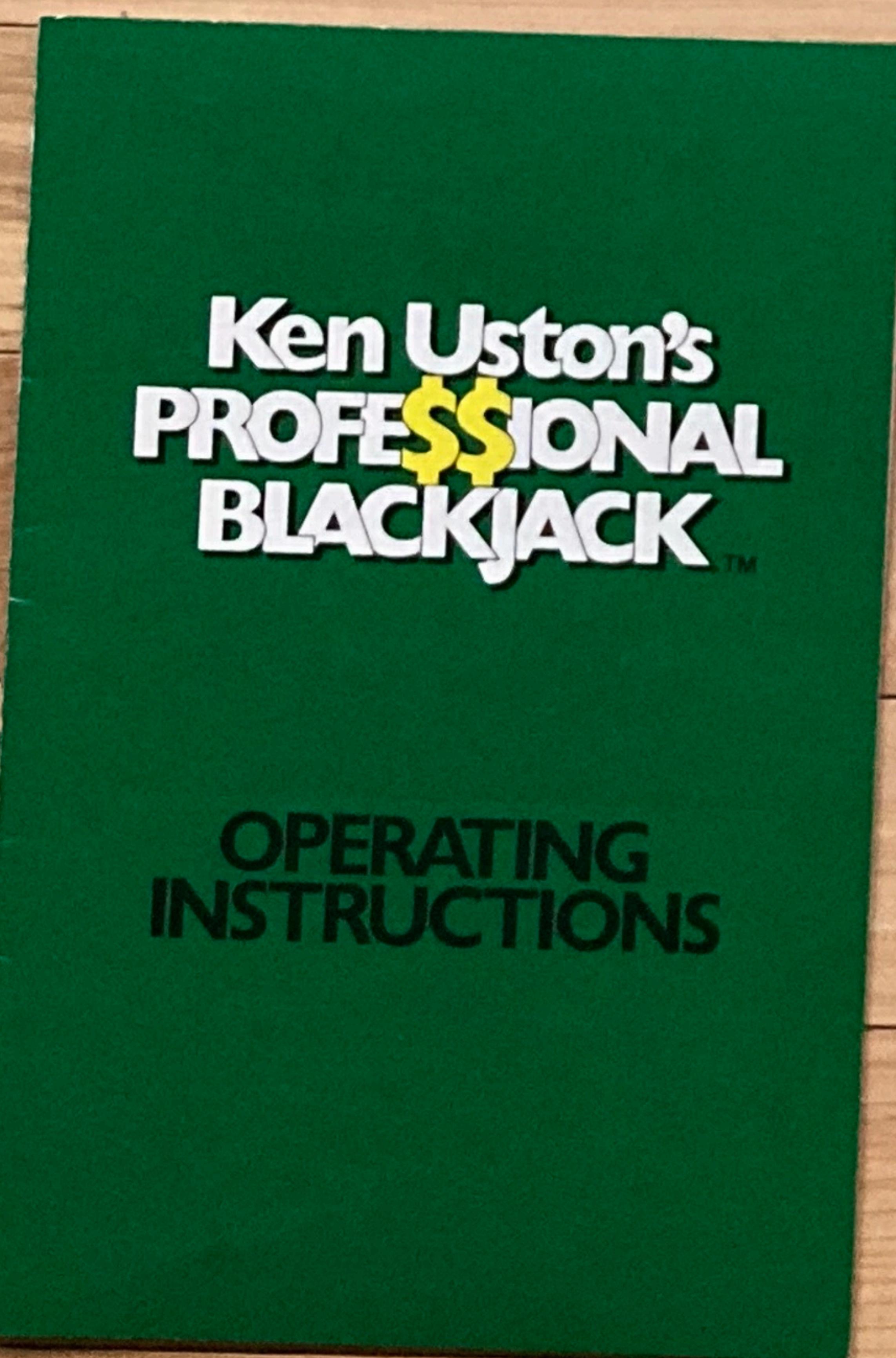
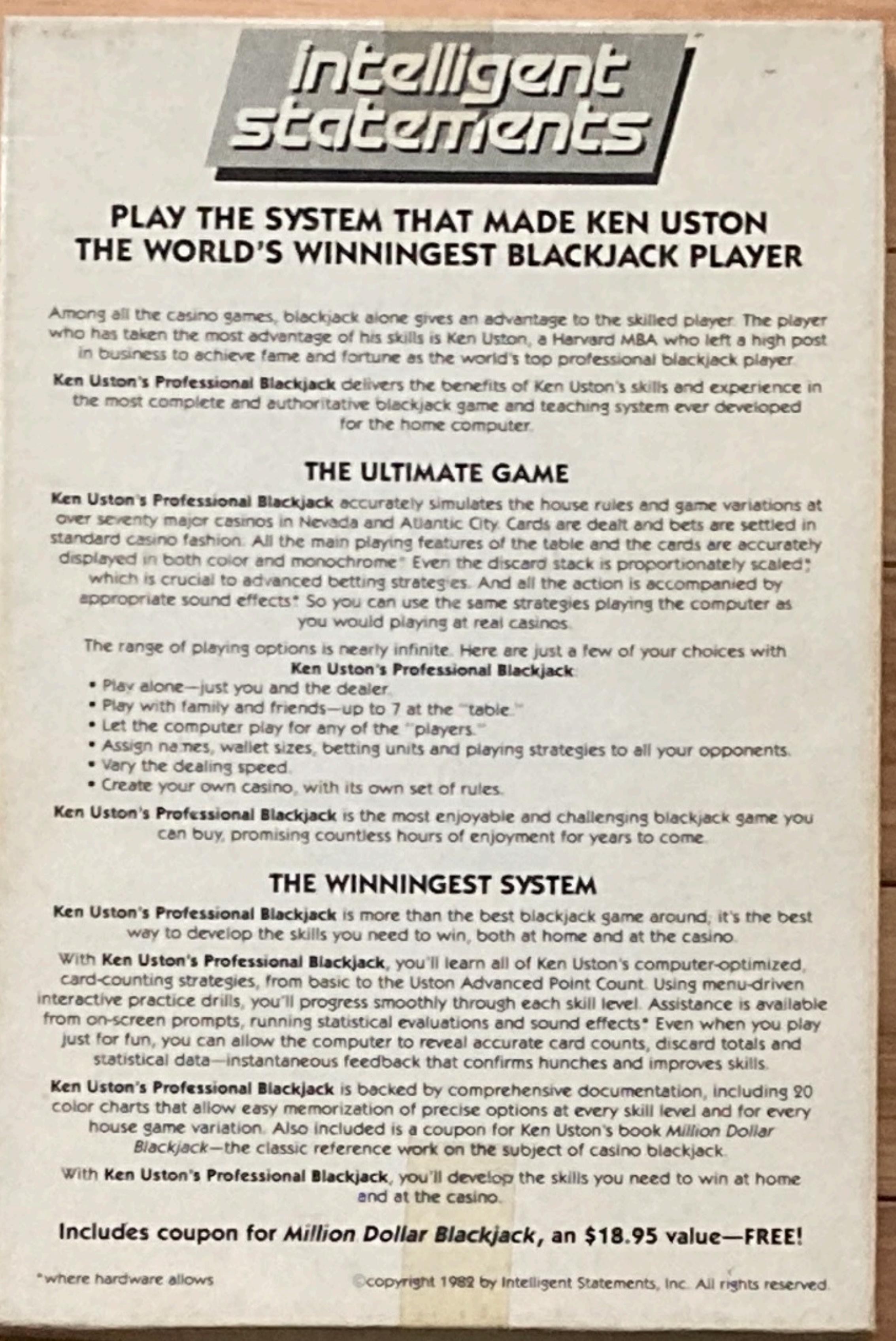
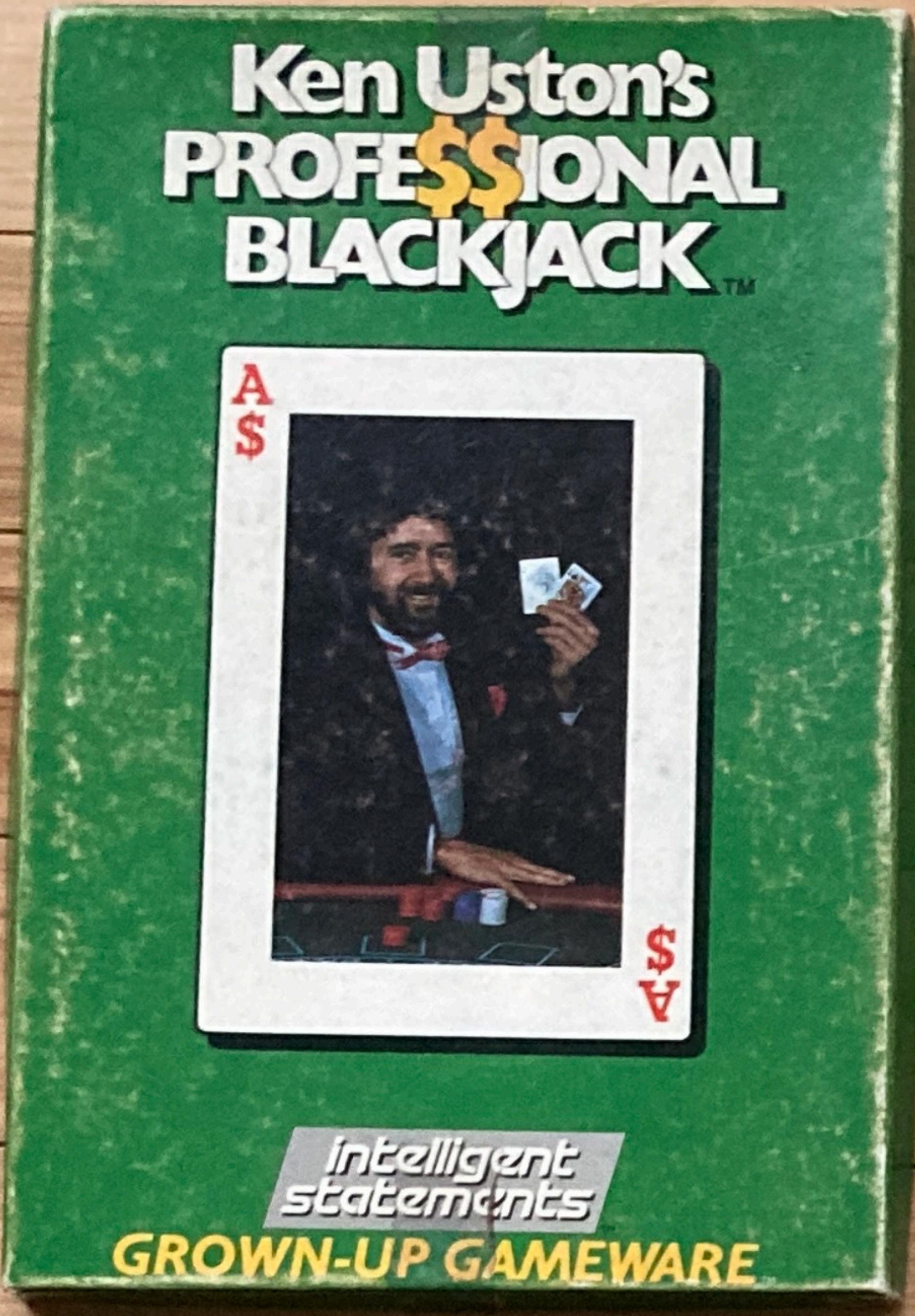
**Ken Uston's Professional Blackjack** is backed by comprehensive documentation, including 20 color charts that allow easy memorization of precise options at every skill level and for every house game variation. Also included is a coupon for Ken Uston's book *Million Dollar Blackjack*—the classic reference work on the subject of casino blackjack.

With **Ken Uston's Professional Blackjack**, you'll develop the skills you need to win at home and at the casino.

**Includes coupon for *Million Dollar Blackjack*, an \$18.95 value—FREE!**

\*where hardware allows

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**Ken Uston's  
PROFESSIONAL  
BLACKJACK™**

**APPLE II**  
Version

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### USTON SIMPLE PLUS/MINUS

Multiple Deck • Double Down on Split Allowed • No Surrender • Dealer Stands on Soft 17

PLAYER'S

HAND

	DEALER'S UPCARD									
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	A
5										SS
6										SS
7										SS
8										
9										
10										
11										
12										S
13										S
14										S
15										S
16										S
17										S
18										
19										
20										
21										
A, A										
2, 2										
3, 3										
4, 4										
5, 5										
6, 6										
7, 7										
8, 8										
9, 9										
10, 10										
A 2										
A 3										
A 4										
A 5										
A 6										
A 7										
A 8										
A 9										
A 10										

TAKE INSURANCE WITH PLUS STRATEGY

Chart H

Ken Uston's Professional Blackjack  
color charts that allow easy memorization of precise optimal strategy for each hand. Also included is a coupon for Ken Uston's book *Million Dollar Blackjack*. With Ken Uston's Professional Blackjack, you'll develop the skills you need to win at home and at the casino.

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### 5. THE USTON ADVANCED PLUS/MINUS SYSTEM

After you have mastered the Simple Plus/Minus count and wish to upgrade your play to that of a professional level system, you can use the same card values that you have become familiar with from the Simple Plus/Minus System and apply them to the Uston Advanced Plus/Minus System. This is a professional level system which has been used successfully by many card counters to earn their living.

To apply the system, you must utilize the same card values and techniques of maintaining a running count as you learned with Simple Plus/Minus System. An additional step must be taken before the card count can be utilized. It must be converted from a running count to what is termed a "true" count. "Strike" numbers were utilized in the Simple Plus/Minus System to reflect the number of decks being played with. The professional player needs to account not only for the number of decks in the shoe, but more importantly, how far into the shoe the play has progressed at every point in the game. As pointed out earlier, a plus ten count after twenty-six cards have been played in a one deck shoe is much more potent than a plus ten count after twenty-six cards have been played in a six deck shoe. In the latter situation, the plus ten count is diluted into a much larger pile of cards remaining to be played. This factor is reflected in both the Advanced Plus/Minus count and the Uston Advanced Point Count (to be discussed in the next chapter) by the player converting his running count to the true count by dividing it by the number of half decks remaining to be played. To do this, you must train your eye so that it can automatically calibrate a stack of cards sitting in the discard rack. The Advanced Plus/Minus drills and the Uston APC drills will help you accomplish this. In addition, in all simulations of multiple deck casino play in Ken Uston's Professional Blackjack, a discard rack will be present on the screen.<sup>2</sup> As hands are played, the used cards will be placed in the discard rack. Proportionality of both card width and stack height are as true to scale as computer hardware will allow. The visual representation of the cards in the discard rack is accurate enough to train your eye for actual casino play.

As mentioned earlier, the running count is adjusted by dividing it by the number of half decks

remaining in the shoe. Since the discard pile is more open to examination than the shoe, we estimate the number of half decks in the discard pile and use this figure to derive the number of half decks remaining in the shoe. For example, if you are playing in a six deck game and you estimate that there are two half-decks' worth of cards in the discard rack (or one whole deck), you would then predict that there are ten half decks remaining in the shoe. You would then adjust the running count to a true count by dividing it by ten. If, in this instance, the running count was plus 20, the true count would be plus 2.

The technique of converting the running count to a true count by dividing by the number of half decks remaining in the shoe is useful in all multiple deck play but becomes difficult in single deck play. Table 5.1 demonstrates this fact more clearly. For example, when seven cards have been dealt in a single deck game, and forty five cards remain, the theoretical conversion factor for the number of half decks remaining would be one and three quarters. It is difficult to sit at a casino blackjack table and divide your running count by one and three quarters. Because of this, we have developed a table of reciprocals for each conversion factor. Multiplying the running count by the reciprocal of the conversion factor is equivalent to dividing running counts by the conversion factor. We have found that it is much easier to perform the former operation in actual casino playing and recommend that these reciprocals be used. Thus, for example, if you were in a single deck game and estimated that thirteen cards (or a quarter of the deck) was sitting in the discard pile, you would multiply the running count by .67 (or two thirds). If, for instance, the running count was plus six and approximately thirteen cards were sitting in the discard pile, you would adjust the running count by multiplying it by two thirds and would obtain a true count of plus 4.

Our experience has shown that it is difficult to train your eye to accurately gauge small fractions of a single deck in a discard pile. We have developed a short cut that simplifies single deck play. This short cut is based on the fact that on the average, 2.7 cards are played for every hand (including the dealer's). Thus, if you count the

<sup>2</sup>This statement is true for all versions of this program where the hardware and operating system provide the feasibility.

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Includes coupon for Million Dollar Blackjack,

\*where hardware allows

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## INTRODUCTION

**Ken Uston's Professional Blackjack™** is equally powerful both as a game and as a teaching system. As a game, the program allows up to seven players to play at the same "table," although most players will choose to take on the "dealer" either one-on-one or with the computer actually playing any number of the other six positions. (You can actually name the other players, set their wallet sizes and select their playing strategies — but more about that later.) As a teaching system, **Ken Uston's Professional Blackjack** converts the experience and expertise of the world's top blackjack player into a computerized format that allows you to develop professional-level blackjack skills in an extremely efficient and rewarding way.

Blackjack is unique among the casino games not only because it is the only game that allows the skillful player to gain a statistical advantage over the house; but also because that level of skill requires a thorough knowledge of the game, the ability to concentrate and a keen sense of strategy. In this sense blackjack resembles other complex games

like bridge and chess. It differs from these games, however, in the opportunities it provides for financial reward; and in the relative ease required for developing professional-level proficiency.

For these reasons, we recommend that you read the enclosed manual and familiarize yourself with all the aspects of the game, including the different skill levels and the rules variations among different casinos.

Within that manual are a series of color-coded charts that give the correct playing choices (stand, hit, double, split and surrender) for virtually every playing situation — for each strategy and for a variety of casino rules. **Ken Uston's Professional Blackjack** can help make those choices automatic. All it takes is time and practice; and **Ken Uston's Professional Blackjack** provides both in ways that make the acquisition of skills a rapid and enjoyable process.

Reading that manual will also make you familiar with the blackjack vocabulary, which in turn will make all the following instructions much easier to understand and follow.

## OPERATIONS

### MAIN MENU

This acts as the main branch point for the entire program.

- (ESC) RE-BOOT DOS
- (1) PLAY BLACKJACK
- (2) DRILL: COUNTDOWN
- (3) DRILL: STRATEGIES
- (4) EDIT CASINO RULES
- (5) ENTER SYSTEM COUNT

Select the appropriate choice by pressing 1-5, or ESC. Pressing ESC will allow you to run another program without having to turn off the machine. Just take out the Ken Uston's Professional Blackjack disk (store it safely) and insert a 3.3 DOS disk.

### PLAY BLACKJACK

Upon selecting your players and casino, you will find yourself in the world of winning blackjack. As the first non-computer-controlled player, you will note the name field's colors change from white to black; this is the prompt. The dealer is requesting your bet. Press one of the 1-9 keys to place 1 to 9 chips on the table at a time. You may do this as many times as you like (providing, of course, you have enough money). If you enter too large a bet, press 0 to start over again. When you are satisfied with your bet, press RETURN, and the dealer will prompt the next player. If you bet inappropriately, in respect to current table conditions, the computer will alert that you have made a strategic error. If there are three high tones, you have bet too high; three low sounds signify too low a bet. Pressing the space bar will reveal data which will help you to evaluate your betting error. (There is only data here; we suppose you are

familiar with the betting strategy found in the accompanying book.) Press any key to continue play.

During play use the function line to guide your selection. Remember, not all casinos have the same rules concerning doubling and splitting. The program will keep track of these rules and inform you of your option. If you hear a high tone during play, you have made a strategic error, indicating either that you have not memorized the charts correctly, or that you have lost count. Press the space bar to refresh your memory. As with the betting data box, press any key to continue. The various abbreviations you will see are: RC= running count; TC=true count; BTC=betting true count (ace adjusted running count); and A+/-=ace richness or poorness. Single deck games may list the total number of hands played, to help you convert from running count to true count. If all these terms seem strange to you, remember that this program is also intended to teach the advanced card counter. Read the other manual and begin to build your confidence by seating yourself at seat 4, playing basic strategy and letting the computer play the other players. Before you know it, you will be ready to count cards.

Do you just want to play for fun? Or is someone sleeping in the next room? You may turn off the error prompting sounds and/or the casino sound effects by using the functions found in the attribute's menu. (See the section Attribute's Menu).

### DRILL: COUNTDOWN

To beat the casinos, you need to count cards quickly. This drill will allow you to practice counting with the computer.

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Poker Strategy

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